

Health News Release

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Contacts: <u>Marqise Allen</u>, Communications Office 360-236-4072

Kelly Stowe, Communications Office 360-236-4022

Gig Harbor psychologist's laptop with client records stolen by prostitute

OLYMPIA — A Gig Harbor psychologist's license has been suspended immediately on charges of not protecting sensitive client information. The suspension by the Board of Psychology and the Washington State Department of Health means Sunil Kakar (PSYC.00003098) cannot practice until the charges are resolved.

Kakar allegedly kept unprotected medical information on 652 Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) clients on his personal laptop. According to charging documents, Kakar's laptop was stolen by a prostitute. He didn't notify DSHS about the snatched laptop until five days later and initially misrepresented the number of clients who could be affected.

Kakar can't practice in Washington until the charges are resolved. He has 20 days to respond to the charges and to ask for a hearing. The charges can be seen online by clicking, "Look up a health care provider" on the <u>Department of Health website</u>. Copies of the documents can be requested by calling 360-236-4700. That number can also be used to file complaints against health care providers in Washington.

The Board of Psychology protects and promotes public health, safety, and welfare in Washington by regulating the competency and quality of licensed psychologists. The board establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies, and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to people in Washington.

The <u>Department of Health website</u> (doh.wa.gov) is your source for a healthy dose of information. Also, <u>find us on Facebook</u> and <u>follow us on Twitter</u>.